Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of Attorney General Annual Report

April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989

90-07067/

British Columbia Cataloguing in Publication Data
British Columbia. Ministry of Attorney General.
Annual Report. -- 1977; 1980/81-

Report year ends March 31, 1980/81-
Continues: British Columbia. Ministry of the Attorney General.
Annual Report. ISSN 0704-6022
ISSN 0704-6022

1. British Columbia. Ministry of Attorney General
EB475.A72A8 354.711065

The Honourable David C. Lam
Lieutenant Governor
Province of British Columbia

May it please Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

Bud Smith

Honourable Bud Smith, Q.C.
Attorney General
June 1990

The Honourable Bud Smith, Q.C.
Attorney General
Province of British Columbia

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

This has been a busy and significant twelve month period for the Ministry. The creation of the Ministry of Solicitor General occured in July and resulted in the transfer of a number of Attorney General programs and services.

In November 1988, the Justice Reform Committee submitted to you the Access to Justice report outlining recommendations for justice reform. It was a very great honour for me to act as chairman of that committee. It has also been gratifying to observe the enthusiasm with which the report has been received and the commitments that have been made towards implementation. This annual report addresses several potential changes that will occur over coming months under the Access to Justice initiatives.

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Some of the commissions and societies reported here are required by statute to report through you annually to the legislature. This is not a substitute for those reports. Those commissions and societies will, in the ordinary way as is required, file an annual report.

E.N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General
June 1990

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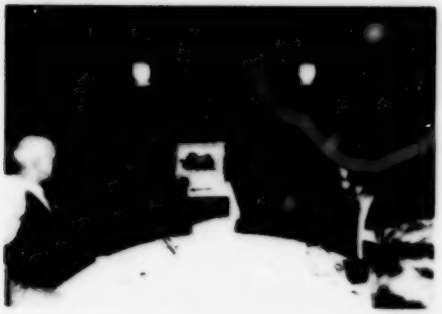


	Budget	Staff
1987/88	[redacted]	[redacted]
1988/89	[redacted]	2095

The Attorney General

The Attorney General of British Columbia is the chief law officer for the Province, the official legal advisor to the Lieutenant Governor and the member of Cabinet responsible for legal affairs.

The current Attorney General, the Honourable Bud Smith, Q.C., is the 34th Attorney General of British Columbia.

Constitutional Responsibilities

In Canada, constitutional responsibility for the justice system is shared by the federal and provincial governments. The federal government legislates criminal law and procedures, the laws relating to divorce, immigration, admiralty matters, bankruptcy and interprovincial trade and commerce. It is also responsible for appointing Superior Court judges and for prosecuting drug offences.

The Provinces are responsible for the administration of justice, including the operation of all the courts, the prosecution of criminal code offences and the appointment of Provincial Court judges. Provinces are also responsible for civil law, including family law matters, other than divorce.

Ministry Organization and Mandate

The Ministry consists of four main Branches:

- the **Legal Services Branch** provides legal advice to the government, including the drafting of provincial laws, and represents the Crown in legal proceedings;
- the **Criminal Justice Branch** provides for the prosecution of all criminal cases and Provincial statute offences;
- the **Court Services Branch** provides support services to all courts in British Columbia. These services include court administration such as registry operations, sheriff services, court reporting and recording, collection of fines and fees, and support for judges.
- the **Management Services and Regulatory Programs Branch** provides services related to administration, policy development, communications and co-ordination of ministry services, including data services, facilities management, finance and administration, policy and financial analysis and personnel services.

  This Branch also protects the legal and financial interests of persons who are unable to look after their own affairs (Office of the Public Trustee) and registers land ownership (Land Title Office). In addition, the Management Services and Regulatory Programs Branch manages programs which ensure that the rights of British Columbians are protected when they deal with the justice system and that residents understand their responsibilities in relation to the justice system. Funding is provided for community-based programs for public legal education, legal aid, native court workers, and, in co-operation

with the Ministry of Solicitor General, for services to victims of crime.

Throughout the Province, the Ministry provides services to the public and the government. The Province is divided into regions which are supervised by directors or regional managers who report to either Assistant Deputy Attorneys General or Assistant Deputy Ministers. An Executive Committee chaired by the Deputy Attorney General includes all the Assistant Deputy Attorneys General and Assistant Deputy Ministers. The Committee reports to the Attorney General.

Restructuring of the Ministry

In June of 1988 the Ministry was divided into the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Solicitor General. The Ministry of Attorney General provides legal advice to government, prosecution of all criminal cases under provincial laws and municipal bylaws, and court administration and justice support programs. Police and correctional services became the responsibility of the Ministry of Solicitor General. In order to provide a justice system that operates efficiently both Ministries have continued to co-ordinate and administer policies and procedures and to work closely together to enforce the laws of British Columbia.

The Ministry's Role within the Government

The Ministry provides legal services such as offering legal advice, reviewing and approving government contracts and drafting legislation and regulations to all other government Ministries. In addition, the Ministry provides advice on constitutional law and criminal law on federal government matters.

The Justice Reform Comittee

In November of 1987, the Attorney General formed the Justice Reform Committee to study the justice system in British Columbia.

The Justice Reform Committee, chaired by the Deputy Attorney General, Mr. E. N. (Ted) Hughes, Q.C., conducted hearings throughout the Province from February to June of 1988. The Committee wanted to know what could be done to improve the justice system and to identify areas where service was well provided.

Response of the Justice Reform Committee

The Committee heard 175 presentations and received 200 letters. It submitted its Report, entitled Access to Justice, to the Attorney General on November 28, 1988.

The Report contained 182 recommendations which address:

- public legal education and the need for plain language law and regulations;
- the structure of the court system;
- family law;
- criminal law procedures;
- civil law and procedures;
- court costs and legal fees;

- alternate dispute resolution (a means other than a court proceeding to resolve a dispute between two or more parties, mediation and arbitration are the two principal means);
- justice needs of special needs groups; and
- the role of technology in the justice system.

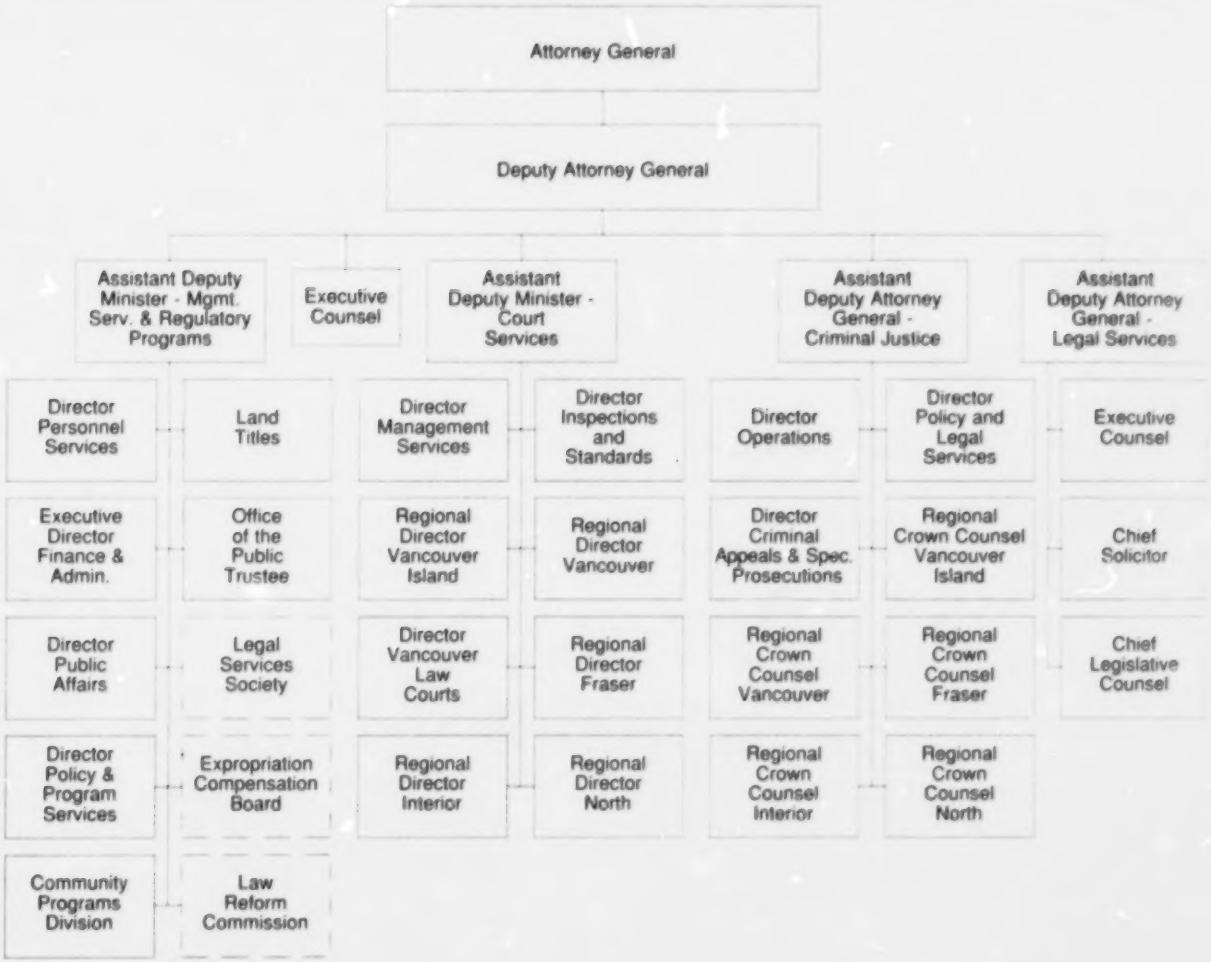
The Report recommends a justice system which is accessible, understandable, relevant and efficient for everyone.

The Ministry's Response to the Justice Reform Committee's Report

After receiving the Justice Reform Committee's Report, Attorney General Bud Smith toured the Province in December and January to discuss the recommendations with the public and members of the legal community. In addition, over 100 written responses were received by the Attorney General.

Response to the Report was very positive.

Organization Chart



Justice Services

Legal Services Branch 16

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Management Services and
Regulatory Programs Branch 35

Legal Services Branch

	Budget	Staff
1987/88	$13 164 393	91
1988/89	$14 764 036	94

The Legal Services Branch provides legal services relating to civil matters to all government Ministries, the Securities Commission, and the Financial Institutions Commission.

This Branch works closely with the Attorney General. The Act governing the Attorney General states that he must "see that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with the law" and "has conduct of all [lawsuits] for or against the Crown" and he can "advise on legislative acts and proceedings of the Legislature." The Legal Services Branch helps the Attorney General to carry out these tasks.

Services of the Legal Services Branch

Legal Services Branch:

- advises government ministries and agencies on legal matters;
- prepares legislation, regulations and orders-in-council;

- drafts government contracts; and
- conducts civil and constitutional lawsuits on behalf of the government.

Divisions of the Legal Services Branch

The Branch has three divisions:

- barristers who represent the Crown in court for civil and constitutional matters;
- solicitors who provide legal advice to government Ministries, interpret government powers under legislation, prepare all government contracts excluding routine daily contracts, prepare all property transfers and mortgages for government, and appear before Boards, Commissions, and Tribunals; and
- legislative counsel who draft legislation, regulations and orders-in-council.

The Legal Services Branch presently employs a total of 94 lawyers and support staff. The Branch also retains 59 persons on contract to provide additional legal and support services for the Branch. Private lawyers around the province provide other legal services on annual or short term contracts.

Legal Services Branch Library

The Branch also provides a full library service to the Ministry of Attorney General. The library maintains and continues to develop the central law and management collection, provides a province-wide reference service and buys published and unpublished materials.

Highlights of the Year

The work of the Branch during the reporting year was significantly influenced by a number of factors including:

- an exceptionally heavy legislative program resulting from implementation of the Justice Reform Committee recommendations;
- production of a discussion paper on court jurisdiction and practices in family law; and
- the continued high level of challenges to legislation based on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Plans for 1989/90

The Legal Services Branch plans to continue to respond in a timely fashion to issues that arise during the upcoming year.

Criminal Justice Branch

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$21,400,785	192
88/89	$22,255,957	185

The Criminal Justice Branch contributes to the protection of society by conducting prosecutions fairly and diligently. The Criminal Justice Branch is responsible for prosecuting offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Young Offenders Act, provincial statutes and certain municipal by-laws in the trial and appeal courts of British Columbia, and in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Regional Crown Counsel

The Branch is divided into five regions. Within each Region, there are two Deputy Regional Crown Counsel and one Regional Crown Counsel. All Regional Crown Counsel and a Director of Operations, Director of Policy and Legal Services, and Director of Criminal Appeals and Special Prosecutions report directly to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General.

Duties of Crown Counsel

In the Regions, Crown Counsel or "Prosecutors" conduct prosecutions. Among other things, Crown Counsel must decide what charges to approve, which persons to refer to diversion programs, and what information is required for presentation to the Court at the time of sentencing. Crown Counsel also participate on various legal training committees and other community committees. They also advise police and other justice officials on specific cases.

The Branch provides legal advice on criminal law to the government. It also develops policies and procedures on matters relating to the prosecution of criminal cases.

Criminal Justice Branch Headquarters Operations

Through its Headquarters operations, the Branch:

- administers the Crown Counsel system, including interprovincial transfers of criminal charges and notifications under the protection-of-privacy provisions of the Criminal Code;
- co-ordinates responses to enquiries from the public, which often includes consulting with Crown Counsel and Regional Crown Counsel;
- administers the Crown-based Victim/Witness Assistance Program;
- analyses new and established legislation; and
- participates on federal and provincial criminal justice committees and task forces.

Highlights of the Year

The split of the Ministry into the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Solicitor General resulted in the transfer of Film Classification and the Order-in-Council Review Board to the Ministry of Solicitor General.

Restructure of the Criminal Justice Branch

Early in the year, management of the Criminal Justice Branch decided to look at restructuring the Branch. This decision was consistent with the recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee relating to organizational development. The Branch planned to create an organization which provides:

- improved service delivery to the public;
- recognized and articulated core values and beliefs;
- a strong commitment to its employees;
- a participative management style; and
- a fair distribution of personnel and financial resources throughout the Province.

Cross-Regional Task Forces

The Branch identified a number of issues which required immediate attention and then created five cross-regional Task Forces to develop proposals for management. The Task Forces are examining the following issues:

- compensation levels for lawyers and support staff;
- human resource development and career planning;
- job security;
- the use of paralegals/legal assistants; and
- automated (computer) systems development.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

During 1988/89, the Branch also extended the Crown-based Victim/Witness Assistance Program. Five sites were established at Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, New Westminster, and Prince George. Victim/Witness assistance workers deal with victims who have suffered severe physical and psychological trauma, and they also assist Crown Counsel in preparing victims to testify at trial.

The Branch started a pilot project in Victoria to document costs of witness notification and associated expenses. The pilot project also seeks to obtain admissions from non-local witnesses whenever possible. Witnesses are essential to the criminal justice system, and must be treated with sensitivity and understanding. Crown Counsel interview up to 250,000 witnesses each year.

Uniform Law Conference

The Uniform Law Conference held in Toronto, Ontario in August of 1988 was chaired by the Director of Policy and Support Services, Criminal Justice Branch. Delegates from across Canada met and considered 44 resolutions and four discussion papers. Examples of matters that British Columbia brought forward for discussion included amending the Criminal Code so that all indictable (or more serious) offences punishable by a maximum of 10 years or less imprisonment may also be prosecuted summarily (or as a less serious offence). In addition, the Branch suggested that the Criminal Code be amended to allow for summary conviction and indictable offences to be joined on one information (both charges combined on one document), with the indictable procedure to apply.

Disclosure Court Pilot Project

As a result of the Justice Reform Committee Report, the Criminal Justice Branch began to develop a strategy to implement the Report's recommendations. One of the proposed projects focused upon creating a pilot project, a "Disclosure Court," to streamline (as much as possible) prosecutions of serious cases. In the model, Crown Counsel would provide Defence Counsel with full disclosure of the circumstances of the offence as early in the process as possible, with the goal of identifying and limiting the issues (and ultimately the number of witnesses) before the court. The pilot project, planned to commence in the fall of 1989 in Vancouver, would apply to all serious offences where the accused can choose to be tried by a judge or a judge and jury (indictable electable offences).

Native Justice Issues

The Criminal Justice Branch has recognized native justice concerns as a priority. On January 1, 1989, the Branch appointed a special Executive Crown counsel in charge of native justice issues. This Crown Counsel and Regional Crown Counsel began discussions with interested native communities on the need to establish more diversion programs. The Executive Crown Counsel's duties include developing alternatives to the usual process of prosecution for natives alleged to have committed offences, and analyzing issues surrounding lotteries and bingos on reserves.

Environmental Issues

In response to continued concerns relating to environmental issues, the Executive Crown Counsel was also assigned duties which included joint decision-making in significant environmental cases and, together with specially designated environmental prosecutors, developing policies and procedures to emphasize the priority to be given to environmental prosecutions.

Community Offences

Prosecution of impaired driving and related offences continued to be aggressively pursued throughout 1988/89. Prosecution of these cases continued to be a priority.

The Branch continued to refine its special policies relating to victims of child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, and spousal assault.

Plans for 1989/90

For 1989/90, the Criminal Justice Branch plans to:

- consider and, where possible, implement the recommendations of the five task forces on organizational development and restructuring;
- move towards developing full-time career paths for Crown Counsel;
- decentralize Crown-based Victim/Witness Assistance Programs, and integrate the program into the regular operations of Crown Counsel offices;
- have an automated legal information system partially developed by the end of 1990;
- complete the Crown Counsel Policy Manual; and
- work more closely with the police to address outstanding matters of mutual concern to the police and Crown Counsel.

Court Services Branch

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$88,031,345	1,252
88/89	$90,867,488	1,243

The Court Services Branch provides support services to all courts in British Columbia. These services include court administration responsibilities such as registry operations and sheriff services, court reporting and recording, collection of fines and fees, and support for judges.

Court services are provided at 100 Provincial, 34 Supreme and County and two Appeal Court locations throughout the Province. Approximately 75 of these court sites are permanently staffed while the others are serviced by visiting staff.

The Court Services Branch is accountable to the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judges of the County and Provincial Courts for providing judicial administration which is independent of government. This Branch has the unique position of also being accountable to the public through the Attorney General.

(1) Court Administration

Court Administration Services

Court Administration is responsible for receiving and administering fines, fees and trust monies as well as for receiving, registering, filing, and processing documents for the courts and providing accounting services for receiving trust and revenue funds.

Court administration staff provide the following services:

- providing information on courts to the public;
- preparing and maintaining court files;
- giving receipts for and depositing fines, fees and trust monies;
- providing court clerks for recording pleas and dispositions for setting trial dates and for general administration in the courtroom;
- labeling, securing, controlling and disposing of court exhibits such as drugs, money and documents; and
- managing all court facilities.

(2) Sheriffs

Sheriff Services

Sheriffs' duties include:

- serving certain documents;
- providing prisoner and courtroom security;
- calling citizens for jury duty;
- supervising jury deliberations;
- escorting accused and convicted persons to and from the courts and between correctional facilities;
- executing writs (seizing and disposing of the property of a debtor under the authority of a court order); and
- assisting coroners' courts.

(3) Transcripts

Transcript Services

The Court Services Branch employs official court recorders (audio) or court reporters (shorthand). They record proceedings in the court and produce word for word copies of proceedings (transcripts).

(4) Judicial Administration

Judicial Administration Services

Judicial Administration includes the following services:

- providing Justices of the Peace for hearing bail applications, issuing warrants and other matters as directed by the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court;
- providing Supreme, County and Small Claims Court registrars to carry out some limited judicial functions under the direction of the court; and
- scheduling trials.

Highlights of the Year

Court Activity

During 1988/89 the Branch handled about 270,000 new civil and criminal cases, or more than 1,000 new cases every working day. While the number of new cases is down somewhat from 1987/88, new cases may not be a good indicator of overall justice system activity. Courtroom hours (133,716 hours) have remained the same, but registry activity has increased with new ticket processing and accounting procedures.

The decline in court activity can be traced to different sources in the criminal and the civil courts.

Civil court activity basically involves two private parties and the government provides a system for hearing and resolving complaints. There are other mechanisms, such as alternate dispute resolution, for resolving these issues. It may be that economic conditions as well as the availability of other means of conflict resolution attributed to the decline in new cases in the civil courts.

Criminal cases, however, involve a private individual and the Crown as prosecutor. Because public safety is the underlying issue, the courts must hear and make judgment on criminal cases. Tighter screening procedures for Crown Counsel charges, new diversion programs (pre-court processes where offenders are diverted from the justice system after agreeing to make some compensation, such as performing community services, for their crime) may all be contributing to the decline in new cases in the criminal courts.

Even though new civil and criminal cases are declining, the matters going before court have remained fairly constant so that the overall level of activity has not declined.

Program Initiatives

Recognizing the need to facilitate service to the judiciary and the public, the Branch initiated three major program changes.

Training for New Financial System

1. Changing procedures and staff training to ensure the proper handling of $35,563,223. in revenues from fines, fees and other sources and the several millions of dollars in daily trust balances.

New "Clerk-Recorders"

2. Combining the two jobs of court clerk and court recorder with the objective of having 45 percent of all Provincial Criminal, Family and Youth Court time "clerk-recorded" by January 1. This objective was met and resulted in increased efficiency and in increased job interest for the new clerk-recorders.

New Program for Court-Ordered Seizures of Goods

3. Improving service to the public for executing of writs. This objective was met through contracting with private parties for seizure and selling of goods. Management of this process remained with the sheriffs.

Recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee

The programs and policies of this Branch will be significantly altered by the changes recommended in the Justice Reform Committee Report. The recommendations of particular interest are:

- appointing Masters (the appointment of lawyers to do some of the work that is currently being done by judges);

- economic litigation procedures (a simplified and inexpensive way of permitting certain civil court actions to proceed through the courts, settlement will be encouraged at compulsory pre-trial conferences);
- changes to Small Claims Court rules and procedures; and
- new family law legislation.

Recommendations for implementation of these changes will be brought forward for discussion.

Management Services and Regulatory Programs Branch

	Budget	Staff
87/88	[redacted]	91
88/89	[redacted]	94

Management Services and Regulatory Programs Branch provides policy, financial, personnel, communications, systems and facilities services to the other Branches of the Ministry, as well as to the Expropriation Compensation Board and the Law Reform Commission. In addition, the Branch is responsible for administering grants and contracts for programs delivered by societies such as the Legal Services Society, and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association. It is also responsible for the Family Maintenance Program, Victim Assistance Program, Office of the Public Trustee, and the Land Title Branch.

When the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Solicitor General were separated into two Ministries, staff from both areas developed plans for sharing existing financial resources and assisting staff to choose between continuing to work at the Ministry of Attorney General or transferring to the new Ministry of Solicitor General.

Divisions of Management Services

The four Divisions which provide the central services required to support the overall operations of the Ministry are:

- Policy and Program Services Division;
- Finance and Administration Division;

- Personnel Services Division; and
- Public Affairs Division.

Policy and Program Services Division

Each Branch of the Ministry is responsible for developing policies and programs that deal with its own operations. Policy and Programs Services Division manages policy or program areas that affect the Ministry as a whole or that do not fit within the mandate of a particular Branch. The Division is responsible for:

- providing policy and program development advice to the Attorney General and the Ministry Executive;
- preparation of estimates, federal/provincial and policy and program specific briefing notes for the Ministry;
- overseeing community-based programs such as the Victim Assistance Programs, Sexual Assault Centres, the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, and the Salvation Army Courtworker Program;
- co-ordinating the Ministry's legislation program and its participation in federal/provincial meetings and conferences;

- designing, developing and implementing community-based justice programs;
- working with federal, provincial and non-government organizations on justice matters; and
- developing and implementing longterm planning for the Ministry.

Finance and Administration Division

The Finance and Administration Division is responsible for:

- the central processing of financial transactions including payroll and revenue transactions;
- the Ministry's budget including preparation of the annual budget and allocating the budget in accordance with Executive and Management decisions;
- preparing financial reports and performing financial analysis of Ministry operations to support Executive and Management decision-making;
- managing the Ministry's capital project plan, managing facilities construction and analyzing building needs for the Ministry;
- the central provision of administrative services including telecommunications, postal services, vehicle management, purchasing, records management and other services; and
- planning for information technology and management of Ministry computer systems development and data processing operations.

Personnel Services Division

The Personnel Services Division assists managers in the Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Solicitor General in all areas of personnel administration including:

- labour relations;
- staffing;
- classification of positions;
- organization structure, reporting relationships and related matters; and
- personnel training, occupational health and safety, policy development and various human resource management initiatives.

Public Affairs Division

The Public Affairs Division is responsible for:

- developing communication plans for all programs, services and major initiatives undertaken by the Ministry;
- media relations, including press releases, press conferences and special events;
- advertising Ministry events;
- market research to assess the public response to Ministry programs;
- monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of communication activities; and
- developing pamphlets, brochures and other public information materials which help staff and the general public understand the justice system, Ministry programs and services.

Highlights of the Year

Policy and Program Services Division

This Division was created when the Policy and Financial Analysis Division and the Special Projects Division merged as a result of the split into two Ministries. During the year, the Division:

- managed and administered community grants to 33 Victim Assistance Programs and sexual assault centres as well as ongoing funding to nine agencies;
- focused on developing new policies and programs and assessing financial implications of legislative initiatives, policies and programs;
- co-ordinated an indepth analysis of the 182 recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee Report; and
- co-ordinated the Ministry's response to the Justice Reform Committee Report, including development of an implementation strategy and budget analysis, as well as the presentation of the Ministry's response to the Cabinet and Treasury Board.

Finance and Administration Division

Budgeting and financial capacities of the Ministry were enhanced when responsibility for financial performance was transferred to the Finance and Administration Division. During 1988/89, the new Division:

- revised job descriptions, reclassified positions and reassigned staff in the new structure;
- started planning a new financial system which would be more efficient and provide management with better financial information for decision-making;
- evaluated and documented the Justice Reform Committee's recommendations concerning information technology and facilities;
- developed and maintained information technology systems for the Court Services Branch as well as modifying systems for new legislation such as Victim Surcharge (the amount of money imposed on some provincial fines for the purpose of carrying out programs beneficial to victims); and
- began construction of two new courthouses in Maple Ridge and Surrey, along with the expansion of the Provincial Court in Kelowna.

Personnel Services Division

Highlights of 1988/89 for the Personnel Services Division included:

- support for the creation of new Management Support Services Divisions of both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Solicitor General; and

- support for reorganizing the Motor Vehicle Branch to provide services in every region of the Province.

Public Affairs Division

The office of the Public Affairs Division was established by the fall. Duties included:

- identifing Ministry communication needs and the resources required to meet those needs; and
- co-ordinating the Attorney General's tour in response to the Justice Reform Committee Report.

Plans for 1989/90

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee

The Management Services and Regulatory Programs Branch will begin implementing the recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee in the upcoming year. This process involves planning pilot projects and setting up an evaluation system which will be overseen by the Policy and Program Services Division. In addition to responding to the Committee's recommendations, the Branch plans to:

Transfer of Victim Assistance Program

- transfer the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and funding of the Victim Assistance Program to the Community Programs Division in Vancouver;

New Financial Control System	• introduce the new financial control system and revise all financial manuals;
Courthouse Construction	• begin construction of three courthouses in Kelowna, Creston and the Western Communities, as well as renovations to five courthouses in Nanaimo, New Westminster, Williams Lake, the Vancouver Law Courts, and the Family and Small Claims Courts in Vancouver;
New Systems Services Division	• develop a plan for systems development and information technology;
Personnel Services	• create a personnel office to serve Headquarters operations in both the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Solicitor General;
Communications	• publish the government's response to the Justice Reform Committee's recommendations and develop communication plans to carry out the recommendations; and • develop Ministry-wide communications policies and procedures.

Family Maintenance Enforcement Program

A pilot project, restricted to income assistance clients in the City of Vancouver, began in 1986 to help single parents with dependent children collect unpaid maintenance payments. This project combined with maintenance enforcement services in other jurisdictions provided the framework for developing more powerful legislation and building a province-wide maintenance enforcement program in B.C. for anyone with an eligible maintenance order or agreement.

Maintenance Payments for Income Assistance Clients

After creditors register for this free service, Program staff monitor and enforce their maintenance orders and agreements. As a result of new rules established under the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act, staff can issue notices to deduct wages from debtors to satisfy maintenance obligations without requiring court hearings.

Highlights of the Year

In June of 1988, after an extensive bidding process, the Branch awarded the contract for the operation of British Columbia's new Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) to a management and consulting firm. The Program began operating in the Lower Mainland in September and made its services available to applicants throughout the Province in January of 1989. The proclamation of the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act coincided with the introduction of the Program.

Pilot Project Winds Down and Province-wide FMEP Established

1988/89 marked the winding down of the Family Maintenance Enforcement Pilot Project and the establishment of the Office of the Director of Maintenance Enforcement. The Director is responsible for overseeing the operation of British Columbia's FMEP.

By the end of March 1989, over 6,000 people requested enrollment in the Program.

Plans for 1989/90

As a result of the response to the Program, the primary goal for 1989/90 is to develop policies and procedures to make sure that large volumes of applications are quickly processed and enforced.

New Community Programs Division in 1989

In 1989, the Office of the Director of Maintenance Enforcement will expand to become the Community Programs Division. This Division will be responsible for monitoring, evaluating and funding the community-based Victim Assistance Programs, Sexual Assault Centres, the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association, and the Salvation Army Courtworker Program presently served by the Branch's Policy and Program Services Division.

Maintenance Enforcement Information Search

MEIS Unit Tracing Service

In November 1988, the Office of the Director of Maintenance Enforcement took over the Maintenance Enforcement Information Search (MEIS) Unit. This is a tracing service developed by Policy and Program Services Division to assist the Family Courts.

The MEIS Unit traces missing parents for the purpose of obtaining, varying or enforcing maintenance, custody, access and guardianship orders.

With the startup of the FMEP and the Ministry of Social Services and Housing's Family Maintenance Program, MEIS procedures were modified to accomodate requests from these new programs as well as the courts.

Plans for MEIS in 1989/90

The Division will review policy, procedures and resources during the next year to find the most effective means of processing increasing numbers of search requests.

Land Title Branch

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$13 914 453	284
88/89	$13 981 640	281

The Land Title Branch operates under the authority of the Land Title Act and deals with documents that relate to private land. The Branch provides the following services:

Services of the Land Title Branch

- records and registers ownership in land;
- records and registers other interests in land;
- issues certificates concerning land ownership;
- creates titles to new land brought into the system by the Crown or new land parcels created by subdivision;
- provides public search facilities to land title records, and uses the Torrens Title Registration system, which allows a person who has established that he or she is entitled to an estate in land to apply to have the ownership registered. Upon registration, the title is assured by the government.

The Land Title Branch processes applications for the public at seven regional offices located in Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Kamloops, Prince George, Nelson and Prince Rupert.

Highlights of the Year

Record Number of Applications

1,046,295 applications were made to the Land Title Branch in 1988/89. This record number represents a 7.5 percent increase in applications and was due to an active real estate market. Revenue collected in registration fees totalled $24,637,163.

ALTOS Computer Data Base

As of March 31, 1989, the Branch had entered 1,164,012 titles to the ALTOS computer data base. This figure represents 75 percent of the 1.5 million titles in the Province. The Branch completed the ALTOS conversion program in Victoria in 1987/88 and in New Westminster in 1988/89. All titles will eventually be added to the electronic data base.

New Remote Computer Search Services

The Land Title Branch offered remote computer search services for the first time in January, 1989. This service was provided to existing clients on a test basis. Eventually this program will be linked to B.C. OnLine, a government program which will offer access to a variety of data bases.

Plans for 1989/90

In 1989/90, B.C. OnLine will be introduced. The Branch will continue adding titles to the ALTOS data base. The Kamloops and Prince George office will complete conversion in 1989/90. The remaining offices will finish conversion by the fall of 1990.

During this year, the Branch will introduce legislation to convert Land Title forms into plain English.

Office of the Public Trustee

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$5 934 244	93
88/89	$5 084 208	90

The Office of the Public Trustee protects the legal and financial affairs of minors, the mentally handicapped, and missing and deceased people. The Public Trustee is appointed by the court.

Services of the Office of the Public Trustee

The Public Trustee provides the following services:

- manages the legal and financial affairs of a person found to be incapable of handling his/her own estate due to mental disability. The courts call this trustee a "committee;"
- acts as guardian of the assets and financial interests of a child under the age of 19 years who has no other legal guardian;
- takes care of or administers the estate of a deceased person who has died without appointing someone who is willing and able to act as executor;
- acts as caretaker of the estate of a missing person until that person is found or is legally declared dead. The courts call the caretaker a "curator;"
- audits the activities of private trustees who have been appointed by the courts to perform trustee functions, similar to those of the Public Trustee;

- investigates situations where incapable individuals are suspected of being financially abused by others. For example, elderly people may be taken advantage of or may be neglected when they are unable to look after their own interests; and
- reviews all settlements of law suits involving minors and makes recommendations to court.

British Columbia's Public Trustee serves about 24,000 clients whose total assets are valued at approximately $300 million. These assets include cash, securities, personal property, and real estate.

Highlights of the Year

Communications Audit and Service Review

The Office conducted a communications audit in January 1989, and began conducting a full review of service improvement requirements. The decision to improve service was a response to steadily increasing caseloads from 1981 to 1986. Although the caseload levelled off at 24,000, the cases became more complex to manage.

Despite the fact that the caseload has levelled off, there are signs of significant future increases as more of the population reaches retirement age. These facts, combined with the government's commitment to a program which encourages disabled people to live independently in their own communities, have led the Office of the Public Trustee to begin reviewing the services they provide to the public.

Campaign to Increase Public Awareness of the Office of the Public Trustee

In response to the Report of the Justice Reform Committee, the Office of the Public Trustee looked into trying to foster greater public awareness of the Office's services. The recommendations of most significance to the Office were the plain language initiatives, improvements in computer-based technology, help for people with special needs and guardianship issues.

Plans for 1989/90

Plans to Improve Public Accessibility

The Office of the Public Trustee is making plans for 1989/90 that will provide greater public access to the Office and help staff to work more efficiently. These plans include hiring more staff, refining a state-of-the-art computer system, starting up a special financial account to channel revenues back into client services, and using plain language on all written materials.

Community Partnership and Education Intiatives

In addition, the Office plans to foster community partnership to help inform the public about the services and programs available to them. The Office will also launch education initiatives to improve communication with clients, their families, professional groups and the community.

Province-wide Legislation on Estate Administration

In the spirit of providing greater public access to the services the Office offers, legislation will be introduced to provide uniform estate administration throughout the Province on a regional basis.

Service Agencies

Expropriation Compensation Board 53

Law Courts Education Program 56

Law Reform Commission 59

Legal Services Society 65

Expropriation Compensation Board

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$195,501	1
88/89	$246,458	1

Public Hearings for Land Compensation Claims

Expropriation occurs when a public agency, such as the provincial government and its agencies, regional districts, municipalities, school boards and utilities, needs to acquire property which an owner does not want to sell.

The Expropriation Act gives power to the Expropriation Compensation Board to set the amount of money paid for expropriated land when the settlement amount is questioned by the private landowner.

Services of the Expropriation Compensation Board

The Expropriation Compensation Board provides the following services:

- receives written requests for hearings from people whose land has been expropriated;
- holds public hearings for land compensation claims. Property owners can request hearings when land has been taken away from them and they do not agree with the amount of money offered by an expropriating authority;

- assesses market value of land, highest and best use of land, injurious affection,[1] disturbance damages,[2] business losses, interest, reasonable legal and appraisal costs and other expenses incurred by an owner whose land has been taken and makes decisions on these matters for compensation;
- makes decisions on pre-hearing issues (interlocutory matters) which deal with procedural matters such as jurisdiction, production of documents and examination of witnesses that may delay the hearing;
- provides detailed written responses when giving decisions in compensation awards and in interlocutory matters, and mails decisions to interested parties; and
- forwards decisions to the Canada Law Book Company for publication in the Land Compensation Reports.

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[1] Injurious affection is a loss in land value that is caused by an expropriation of part of the land for a public project or by the location of a new project or development nearby.

[2] Disturbance damages are expenses such as moving expenses that are incurred by someone whose land has been expropriated and has to move as a result.

Highlights of the Year

During 1988/89, the Board received 33 applications for land compensation claims. 1988/89 was the first full reporting year that the Expropriation Compensation Board was in operation. Applications for compensation were first received in January of 1988 after the Expropriation Act was proclaimed in December of 1987.

The Board published the plain language pamphlet, "Your Rights Under Expropriation," describing the steps applicants can take to question the amount of compensation offered by the expropriating authority.

The Board's decisions in 1988/89 were published by the Canada Law Book Company in the Land Compensation Reports.

Law Courts Education Program

The Law Courts Education Program provides public education on the structure and operation of B.C.'s court system. During 1988/89, the Program was a division of the Court Services Branch.

Law Courts Education Program Services

This Program provides the following services:

- organizes court watching visits to the Vancouver Law Courts for intermediate, high school and university students, multicultural organizations, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, seniors and others;
- sets up meetings with Supreme and County Court Judges or court personnel for visiting groups;
- develops and publishes school curriculum and information leaflets (in several languages);
- organizes professional development for teachers; and
- co-ordinates courthouse activities for the annual Law Day Open House.

Highlights of the Year

Proposal to Expand Program

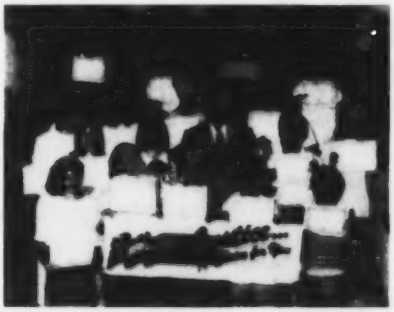
The year was one of major changes for the Program. An evaluation of the Program was undertaken by the Judiciary in the fall of 1988 and plans were underway to modify the Program and expand its services. In January, 1989, a proposal to expand the program's services to all parts of the province and create a partnership between the Ministry and Judiciary went to the Attorney General from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Court Watching Visits

Strong support from the Judiciary and court staff enabled the Program to continue to offer educational sessions with judges, sheriffs, court clerks and others. Almost 10,000 members of the public attended the Law Day Open House, while more than 15,000 people visited the courts when they were in session.

Multicultural Youth Law Camps

A major new initiative was the development of specialized bilingual law camps for youth from the Latin American, Vietnamese and Chinese communities and the involvement of these youth in legal education activities in their schools in the fall of 1988. The three summer law camps involved over 75 youth from 13 to 17 years of age from these three cultural communities.



Publications and Curriculum Activities

The Program produced leaflets on the B.C. court system in Vietnamese, Chinese, Punjabi and Spanish, and developed mock trial activities on drinking and driving with Social Studies 11 students. In addition, the Drinking and Driving Curriculum was developed and passed on to I.C.B.C. for publication during the next year.

Plans for 1989/90

New Law Courts Education Society

The 1989/90 year will continue to be one of major change. Due to recommendations in the Justice Reform Committee Report, the Program will become a Society with an appointed Board of Directors. The new Society will begin the implementation of regionalized educational programming through courthouses by creating an Interior region based in Kamloops and a Lower Mainland West region based in Vancouver. The provincial office of the Society in Vancouver will support regional programming, develop curriculum and publish literature. Publishing plans for 1989/90 include basic leaflets for courtrooms in different languages, teacher's guidebooks on drinking and driving, and an ESL textbook for ESL teachers to teach students how the court system works.

Law Reform Commission

	Budget	Staff
87/88	$446,107	3
88/89	$464,985	3

The Law Reform Commission reviews the laws of British Columbia and recommends ways in which the laws may be improved to better serve the people of the Province. In particular, the Commission works to repeal unnecessary legislation, eliminate irregularities, reduce the number of separate statutes and, generally, simplify and modernize the law.

The Law Reform Commission carries out this function through a number of separate projects, each aimed at an area of the law which requires attention. A project will normally involve intensive research and consultation with interested persons and groups, and will result in a formal report to the Attorney General. Each report will set out the results of the Commission's research and conclusions, along with recommendations for changes in the law.

The Commission frequently receives suggestions from the Attorney General, members of the legal profession, judges and the general public on specific subjects that might be examined as part of the program.

The work of the Law Reform Commission is described in greater detail in its own Annual Report.

Highlights of the Year

Law Reform Committee's Response to the Justice Reform Committee

An event of particular significance in 1988 was the Report of the Justice Reform Committee. A number of recommendations made in the Report touch on the work of the Law Reform Commission both directly and indirectly. In particular, the Justice Reform Committee recommended that a number of topics be referred, by the Attorney General, to the Law Reform Commission for study.

The Law Reform Commission developed and submitted to the Attorney General a formal Report responding to the recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee. The outcome of this process will have a significant impact on the contents of the Commission's program in 1989/90.

Final Reports on Law Reform

The Commission submitted final Reports in 1988/89 on the following topics:

Set-off - When one person attempts to enforce payment of a debt owing to him by another, it is regarded as fundamentally fair that the second person should be entitled to have taken into account any money he is owed by the first. This is usually referred to as a right of set-off. Contradictions arising out of attempts at reform in the late 19th century resulted in confusion around the relative rights of creditors and debtors, especially in situations of bankruptcy. In July, 1988, the Commission's Report on Set-Off looked at these issues and set out recommendations to rationalize and clarify rights of set-off and counterclaim.

Wills and Changed Circumstances - Where circumstances change after a person has made a will, frequently the result is not what the person would have wished. The arbitrary application of certain rules of law may defeat the likely wishes of the person who wrote the will. The Report recommends changes to those rules so courts can avoid such results.

Land (Settled Estate) Act - This Act is based on 19th century English legislation which is now almost obsolete. The Report recommends that the Act be repealed. A minor amendment to the Trust Variation Act is also recommended.

Deeds and Seals - When an agreement is made "under seal" it is known as a deed and a different set of laws apply to it than if it were a contract. The Report recommends that, with minor exceptions, the law of contracts should govern deeds as well. This would dramatically simplify the law and make it more just.

Co-ownership of Land - This Report looks at issues and concerns that relate to the ownership of land by joint tenants and tenants-in-common. The report concludes that present laws are outmoded in a number of ways and frequently operate unfairly. It recommends new legislation restating the rights of co-owners.

Floating Charges on Land - This Report examines the relationship between the floating charge as a lender's primary security over land and its relationship to our system of land title registration. A floating charge is a charge placed on future assets of the debtor.

Practice in Relation to the Cancellation of a Certificate of Lis Pendens - This minor Report addresses certain difficulties within the Land Title Act regarding cancellation of a certificate of lis pendens from the title of land. A lis pendens is a notice of a court action which questions the ownership of the land or claims some interest in land. Future dealings with the land stop once a lis pendens has been registered.

Working Papers and Ongoing Projects

The Commission has also made progress on a number of other projects. Some are in their early stages while in others Working Papers have been prepared and circulated as part of the consultation process.

Execution against Shares - This Working Paper looks at the current law governing the seizure and sale of shares by a person authorized to seize court-ordered goods. The Commission is currently considering responses to the Paper.

Enforcement of Judgments Between Canadian Provinces - This project examines whether it would be desirable to adopt a "full faith and credit" approach to the recognition and enforcement of money judgments from the courts of other provinces. This means that one province's judgments should be paid the greatest respect by another province's courts.

Commercial Tenancy Act - This Act consists mainly of English legislation, some of it almost 300 years old, which was re-enacted in this province around the turn of the century. Much of it is outdated and needs clarification. The aim of this project is to develop new legislation which is simple and comprehensible.

Vicarious Liability under the Motor Vehicle Act - Difficult issues arise when a vehicle is operated in a way which violates provincial law but the driver and the owner are not the same person. The Motor Vehicle Act currently permits the owner to be charged and convicted of an offence even though he or she had no involvment in the incident leading up to the charge. "Vicarious" civil liability is where the owner of the vehicle is required to pay for loss or damages caused to another person by the neglect of the driver of the vehicle who is not the owner.

Family Property - In 1988, the Attorney General requested that the Commission review the law in relation to the division of property on marriage breakdown, with particular emphasis on the status of property acquired before marriage and of inherited property. This reference opened up issues examined in an earlier Study Paper. The Report of the Justice Reform Committee also recommended work in this area. The Commission expects to issue a Working Paper in 1989.

The Division of Pension Rights on Marriage Breakdown - Pension rights continue to be one of the most difficult kinds of property to divide between divorced spouses. The Commission has commenced research into this topic and proposals for reform are expected sometime in 1990.

Court Jurisdiction - The Commission is in the final stages of preparing for publication a Study Paper on the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of British Columbia outside of the Province.

Joint Project on Land Title Law - The Commission and the Director of Land Titles for British Columbia are participating in a joint project on land title law with the other western provinces and Ontario. The aim of the joint project is to produce a draft model land title act suitable for adoption in a number of the participating provinces.

New Law Reform Data Base

Law Reform Data Base - The Commission is in the process of creating a computerized data base of law reform activity in Canada, the Commonwealth, and selected American jurisdictions. The data base is a tool to help researchers find out what work has been done by law reform agencies in relation to particular topics. The first phase of creating the data base is now complete and it contains skeletal records which describe over 3000 law reform documents.

Plans for 1989/90

The Commission will submit final reports on most of the outstanding working papers in the coming year. It is likely that the recommendations of the Justice Reform Committee will result in a number of matters being referred to the Commission for study and report. The Commission hopes that it will be able to move swiftly on these matters and bring them to a conclusion before the end of 1989/90.

During 1989/90, the Commission will work on the database and distribute a preliminary version to people doing similar work throughout the Commonwealth.

Legal Services Society

Provincial Grant

87/88	$19 044 440
88/89	$21 107 440

The Legal Services Society provides legal services to individuals who apply and qualify for legal aid. It also provides legal information and education to everyone in British Columbia.

The Society runs under the authority of the Legal Services Society Act. The Board of Directors includes seven people appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and another seven appointed by the Law Society of B.C.

The Provincial Government provided 83.9 percent of the Society's funds in 1988/89. The Law Foundation provided 11.5 percent of the Society's budget. In addition, the federal government provides up to 50 percent of the funding for legal aid services through cost-sharing agreements with the Province.

Legal Aid

Legal Aid Services

There are 31 legal aid services offices throughout the Province, including Legal Services Society branch offices, community law offices or native community law offices. Communities without legal service society offices may use private lawyers to serve as area directors, to accept applications for legal aid and to find lawyers for approved clients.

The Society provides legal aid services for low-income people. These people must have a family income below the poverty line and have an urgent legal problem. Staff lawyers, paralegals or lawyers in private practice provide legal services.

When an individual is approved for help with a criminal, family or Human Rights Act problem, the office sends him/her to a lawyer in private practice. The lawyer will bill Legal Services Society for the client's legal services.

If a person has a problem affecting his/her livelihood, health, safety, sustenance or shelter, staff at the branch offices or community law offices will offer help.

Legal Education

The Legal Services Society has three programs to provide legal information services. These are the Schools Program, the Public Legal Education Program and the Legal Resource Centre.

Legal Education Schools Program	1) The Schools Program promotes education about the law to secondary school teachers and students. This program publishes resource materials for teachers, presents workshops and publishes "Legal Perspectives," a bi-monthly magazine for B.C. teachers.
Public Legal Education Program	2) The Public Legal Education Program works to make legal information accessible to all people in British Columbia. This program produces self-help materials about legal matters in plain English. In addition, the program provides advocacy training, workshops and funding for legal education projects.
Legal Resource Centre	3) The Legal Resource Centre is a law library for the public, staff of the Legal Services Society and its funded agencies. The centre provides funding for legal materials, legal reference training for library staff and a quarterly newsletter for B.C. public libraries. The centre also operates the Law Line - a telephone legal information service for the general public.

Native Programs

Native Programs Branch	The Native Programs Branch works to make sure the delivery of legal services is consistent with native people's needs. The Branch funds six native community law offices and three friendship centres.

Highlights of the Year

Legal Aid

Applications for Legal Aid

In 1988/1989, there were more than 81,889 applications for legal aid. The society accepted 56.3 percent or 46,078 of these applications. The majority of approved cases, 28,628 involved criminal matters, while 12,405 involved family law and 5,045 involved civil law. These figures show a slight increase from the previous year.

Lawyers providing legal aid services received a ten percent fee increase on October 1, 1988.

Increased funding from the Attorney General's Ministry allowed Legal Services Society to open a full time legal aid office in Terrace.

Legal Information Services

Response to Public Inquiries

The Legal Resource Centre staff responded to 16,636 inquiries. Of these, 15,403 were inquiries through the Law Line, an average of 13.7 calls per hour.

Legal Services Workshops

Legal Services staff conducted workshops on consumer education, law, social studies, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, welfare law, labour law and the Residential Tenancy Act.

Staff also conducted a national law-related education conference, held in Vancouver in June of 1988.

Community Funding for Legal Materials and Projects

The Legal Services Society gave grants in the amount of $35,000.00 to 37 public libraries in 89 communities in British Columbia to help buy legal materials. In addition, 38 community organizations received grants totalling $145,000.00 to carry out public legal education projects.

Publications for Handicapped

Public Legal Education published a handbook for people with disabilities, GAIN for Handicapped - How to Apply, and started a new process to engage their audience in evaluating their publications.

Curriculum Projects

The Schools Program staff participated in the development of the new Law 12 curriculum and will assist with implementation processes as well as with developing new teacher resource materials. Staff also began to develop a unit on resource law for the new Geography 12 course.

New Library Collections

Also during this year, the Legal Resource Centre developed two new special library collections on Plain Language and the Law, and a Refugee Resource File.

Native Programs

Native Programs Activities, Publications and Curriculum Projects

The Native Programs Branch published six native law handbooks relating to the law on Reserves, developed information materials with I.C.B.C., and worked with the Schools Program to develop Haida materials for use in Social Studies 9 classrooms.

Native Community Development Programs

New Native Community Law Office

The Native Programs Branch was very active in 1988/89. The Branch opened L'ax Ghels Community Law Centre Society Office in Terrace, and extended duty counsel (legal aid counsel) services of the Burns Lake Native Community Law Office to the Fraser Lake community.

Plans for 1989/90

After April 1, 1989, added funds will permit the society to:

Legal Aid in Custody Situations

- provide legal aid to financially eligible people in all custody matters if the applicant has a good case; and
- provide legal aid in urgent custody situations to people who fall outside the usual financial eligibility standards, but who are unable to pay for lawyer's fees.

In response to the report of the Justice Reform Committee, the government is providing additional funding in 1989 and 1990. This funding will create the following changes:

Fee Increases

- a five percent increase in lawyers' fees starting October 1, 1989;
- the expansion of duty counsel (legal aid counsel) starting October 1, 1989, to all criminal courts and an increase in duty counsel fees from $30.00 per hour to $40.00 per hour;

Flexible Eligibility Test for all Family and Criminal Matters

- the implementation of a flexible eligibility test for all family matters and criminal matters that the Society currently covers starting April 1, 1990; and
- an increase of $500,000.00 to permit the Society to provide more services in the civil (non-family) area, startlng April 1, 1990.

Community Law Offices will Open

Legal Services Society offices in Maple Ridge and Cranbrook will open in 1989 and will be administered by a local board in these communities.

Appendices

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Provincial Court, New Criminal Cases 78

Provincial Court, Family and Youth Cases 79

Provincial Court, Criminal Cases Completed 80

Total New Cases 81

Total Court Hours 82

Annual Budget and Full-time Staff

	87/88 Budget	88/89 Budget	87/88 Staff	88/89 Staff
Minister's Office	$ 217,398	234,233	5	5
Ministry Operations				
Legal Services to Government	13,164,393	14,764,036	91	94
Criminal Justice	21,400,785	22,255,957	192	185
Court Services	88,031,345	90,867,488	1,252	1,243
Management Services	11,910,747	14,872,507	91	94
Justice Support Programs				
Expropriation Compensation Board	195,501	246,458	1	1
Land Title Branch	13,914,453	13,981,640	284	284
Law Reform Commission	446,107	464,985	3	3
Legal Services Society	19,044,440	21,107,440	-	-
Office of the Public Trustee	5,934,244	5,084,208	93	93
Crown Proceeding Act*	1,088,820	1,081,214	-	-
Judiciary				
Superior Courts	3,917,744	4,549,081	71	71
Provincial Courts	14,105,906	15,347,546	26	29
Total	193,371,883	204,856,793	2,115	2,095

* Crown Proceeding Act: These are payments made as a result of cases against the Crown.

Legislation

The following acts were administered during the 1988/89 reporting year by the Ministry of Attorney General:

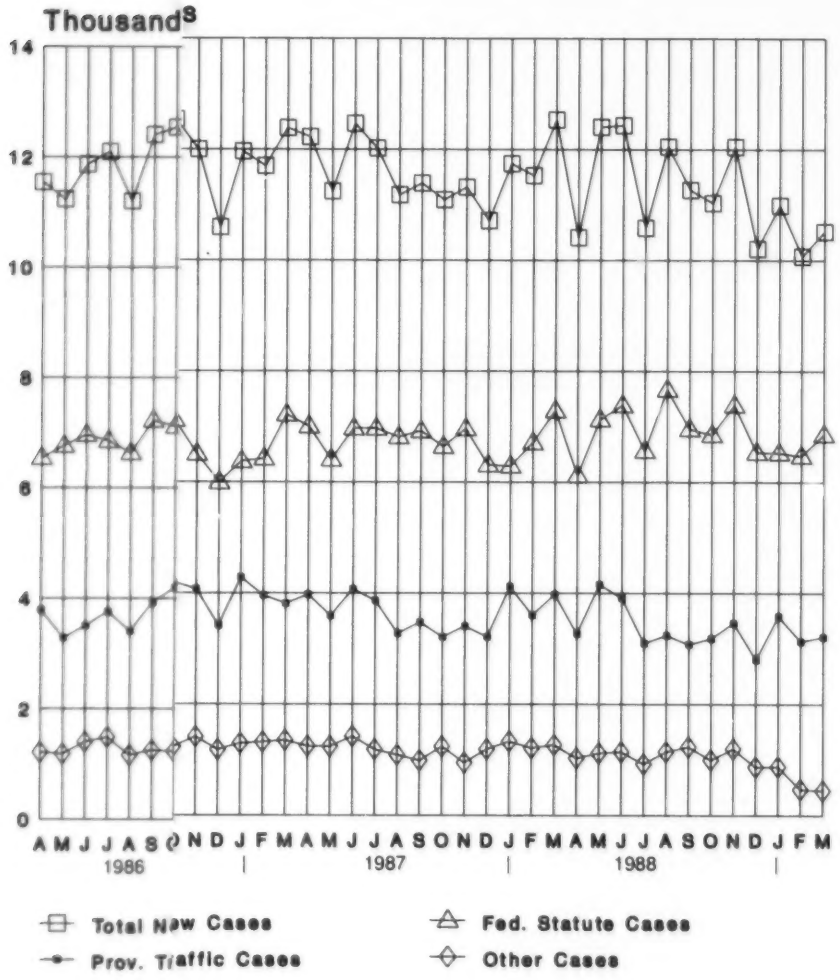
Age of Majority
Attorney General (except section 2 (e) or (h) re Police, Coroners, Racing Commission, Film Classification, O/C Patients Review Board, Parole Board, Motion Picture Appeal Board, Public Gaming Branch, Gaming Commission)
Builders Lien
Civil Rights Protection
Commercial Arbitration
Commercial Tenancy
Company
Condominium (only powers and duties of Registrar of Titles)
Constitutional Question
County Boundary
County Court
Court Agent
Court of Appeal
Court Order Enforcement
Court Order Interest
Court Rules
Crown Franchise
Crown Proceeding
Curfew
Disciplinary Authority Protection
Escheat
Estate Administration
Estates of Missing Persons
Evidence
Expropriation
Family Compensation

Family Maintenance Enforcement
Family Relations (except section 3)
Federal Courts Jurisdiction
Financial Disclosure
Foreign Arbitral Awards
Fraudulent Conveyance
Fraudulent Preference
Frustrated Constract
Good Samaritan
Holiday Shopping Regulation
Homestead
Infants
International Trusts
Interpretation
Judicial Review Procedure
Jury
Justice Administration
Land (Spouse Protection)
Land Title
Land Title Inquiry
Land Transfer Form
Law and Equity
Law Reform Commission
Legal Profession
Legal Services Society
Libel and Slander
Limitation
Municipal (only Part 20)
National Cablevision Limited Transfer of Jurisdiction
Negligence
Notaries
Occupiers Liability

Offence
Ombudsman
Partition of Property
Patients Property
Pawnbrokers
Perpetuity
Power of Appointment
Power of Attorney
Privacy
Probate Recognition
Property Law
Provincial Court
Public Trustee
Queen's Counsel
Regulations
Rent Distress
Sales on Consignment
Sheriff
Small Claim
Small Claims
Statute Revision
Statute Uniformity
Subpoena (Interprovincial)
Supreme Court
Survivorship and Presumption of Death
Trespass
Trust and Settlement Variation
Trustee
Trustee (Church Property)
Wills (except Part 2)
Wills Variation
Young Offenders (British Columbia)

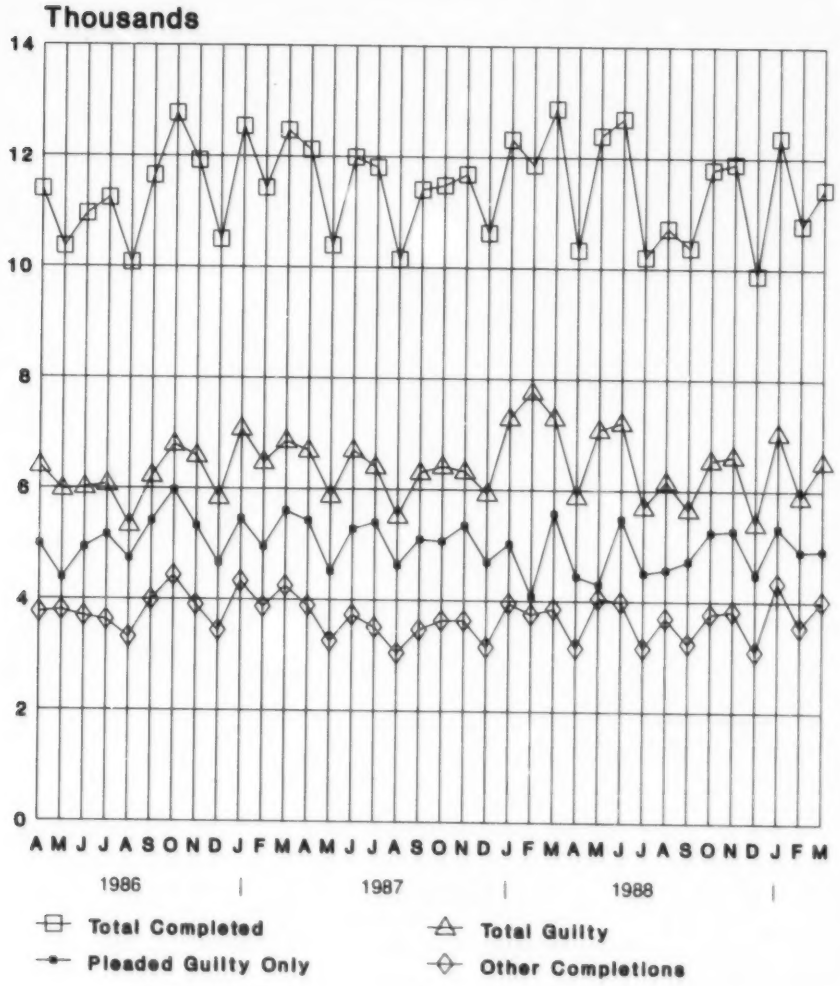
Provincial Court - New Criminal Cases

April 1986 to March 1989



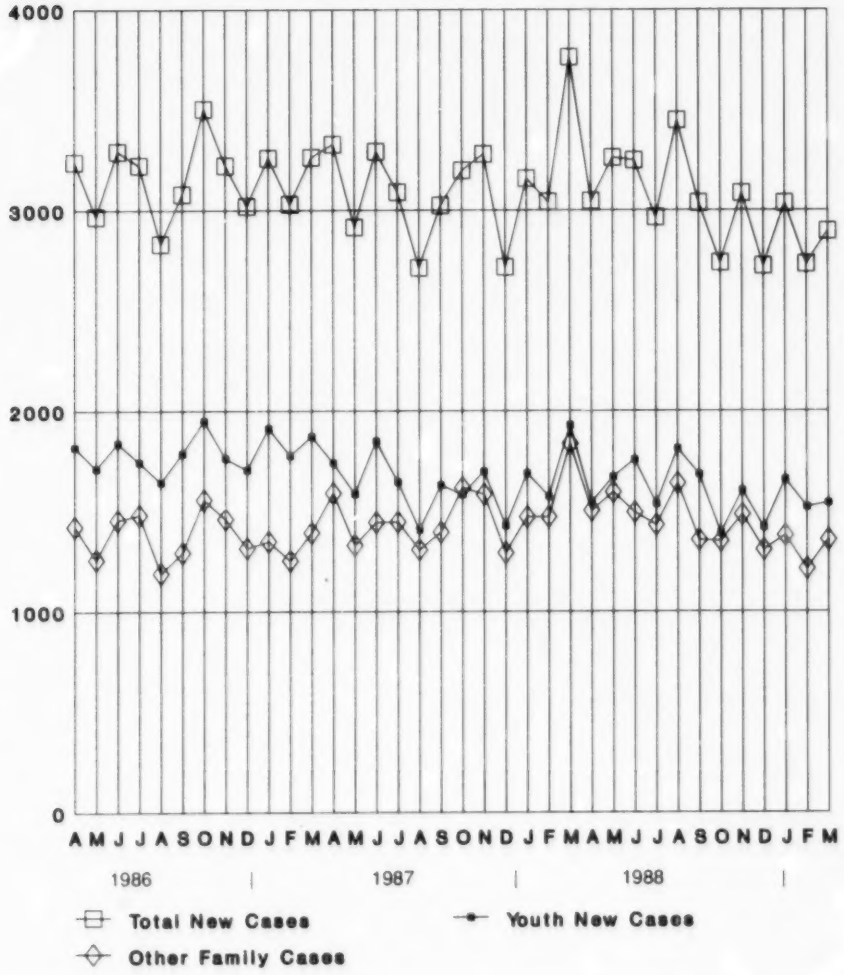
Provincial Court - Criminal Cases Completed

April 1986 to March 1989



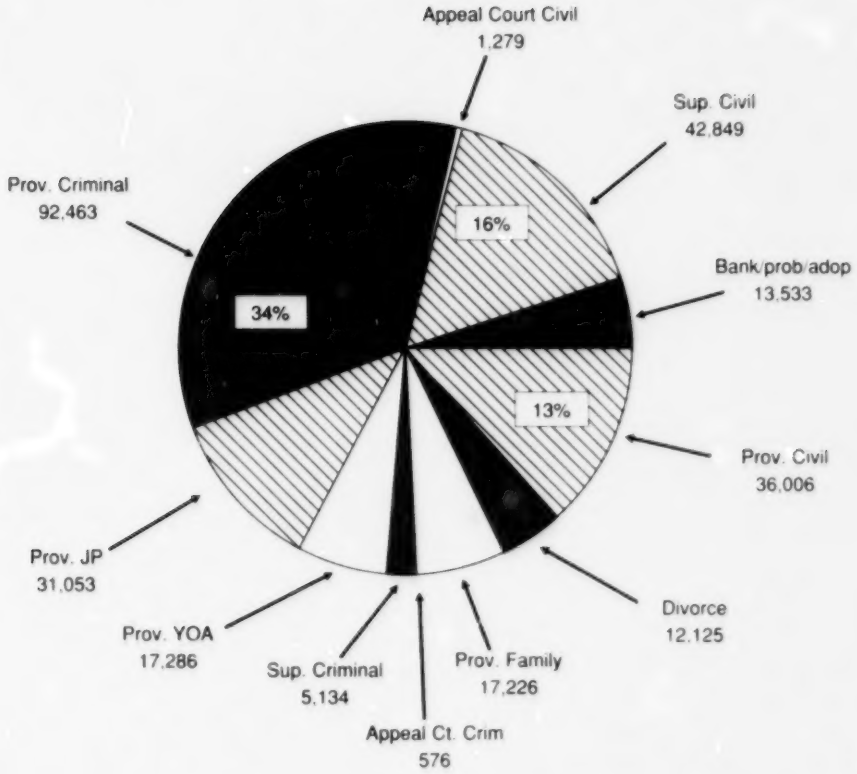
Provincial Court - Family & Youth New Cases

April 1986 to March 1989


4000
3000
2000
1000
0
A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M
1986
1987
1988
Total New Cases
Youth New Cases
Other Family Cases

Total New Cases

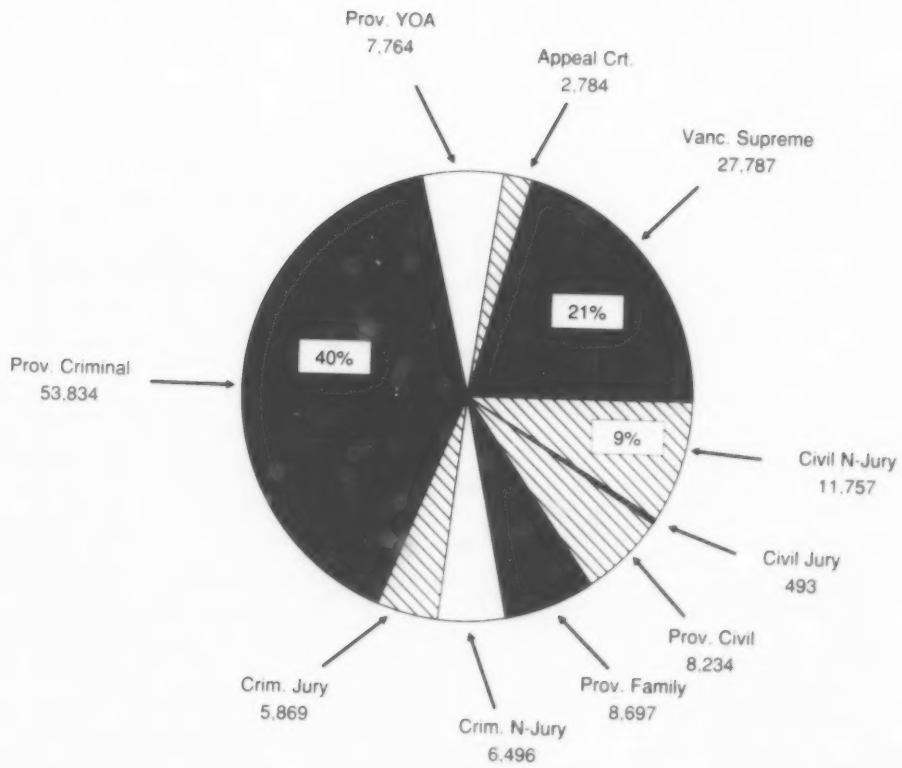
1988/89



Total New Cases = 269,532

Total Court Hours

1988/89



Total Hours = 133,716